

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANA 03682 270834Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 INRE-00 SSO-00

PM-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 /043 W  
-----086990 270904Z /15 S

O 270812Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY SANA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5485

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

CHUSMTM DHAHHRAN IMMEDIATE

USMTM RIYADH IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SANA 3682

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, YE, SA

SUBJ: ARMS FOR YEMEN

REF: RIYADH 618

1. REFTEL LOOKS VERY GOOD TO ME.

2. WHAT WE NEED TO DO IS SELL IT IN SANA. WE SHOULD COORDINATE CLOSELY WITH SAUDIS ON OUR APPROACH TO SALIH ON THIS CRUCIAL EFFORT. IN PARTICULAR BELIEVE WE SHOULD KNOW -- EVEN IF WE DO NOT MENTION -- WHAT SAUDIS ARE GOING TO PROPOSE ON THEIR PART: MORE FRENCH EQUIPMENT, FOR INSTANCE, TRAINING AND MAINTENANCE SUPPORT BY EGYPTIANS, JORDANIANS OR WHATEVER.

3. READERS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS INEVITABLE THAT OUR PROPOSALS WILL NOT SATISFY YAR PRESIDENT, AND INEVITABLE THAT HE WILL ACCEPT. HE IS DEEPLY AND UNDERSTANDABLY WORRIED BY COMPARISONS OF HIS FORCES WITH THOSE IN SOUTH. I SEE TWO ANSWERS TO THIS. ONE IS TO SUGGEST WAYS TO DEPLOY HIS FORCES ALONG AXES OF SUPPORT. WE NEED SHOW HIM WHAT-EVER WE HAVE ON PDRY ORDER OF BATTLE TO CONVINCE HIM THAT CONSIDERABLE ASSETS ALREADY EXIST IN YAR IF HE CHOOSES USE  
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THEM APPROPRIATELY, IN OTHER WORDS, PROVIDE US ADVICE AND INTELLIGENCE. SECOND, WE SHOULD SUGGEST TO SAUDIS THAT THEY MUST RE-ITERATE THEIR ASSURANCES OF MILITARY SUPPORT IF YAR IS ATTACKED BY SOUTH. HOPEFULLY OMAN AND OTHER STATES COULD JOIN. THIS IS SAUDI AND ARAB UNDERTAKING BUT WE COULD AT LEAST ENDORSE IT AS LEGITIMATE EXERCISE OF SELF-DEFENSE AND GOOD EXAMPLE OF REGIONAL COOPERATION. NAVAL AND OTHER EXERCISES

WHICH WE SUGGESTED EARLIER AS WAY TO MANIFEST INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR SALIH AND YAR COULD BE ANNOUNCED FOR FALL OR WINTER 1978. STEPS LIKE THESE TWO WILL HELP SALIH ACCEPT WHAT IS, IN THE END, HIS ONLY OPTION FOR STRENGTHENING YAR ARMY AND A GOOD OPTION AT THAT.

RANSOM

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ARMS, MILITARY SALES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jul 1978  
**Decapton Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decapton Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978SANA03682  
**Document Source:** CORE  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** MASS, YE, SA  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014